

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1978

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Section 11155.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1978, as introduced, Jones-Sawyer. Foster care.

Existing law states the Legislature's finding and declaration that the foundation and central unifying tool in child welfare services is the case plan and requires, when appropriate, for a child who is 16 years of age or older and, commencing January 1, 2012, for a nonminor dependent, the case plan to, among other things, include the transitional independent living plan, which describes the goals and objectives of how the child or nonminor will make progress in the transition to living independently and assume incremental responsibility for adult decision making. Existing law authorizes a child who is declared a ward or dependent child of the court who is 16 years of age or older, or a nonminor dependent, as defined, who is participating in a transitional independent living case plan to retain specified cash resources and still remain eligible to receive public social services.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 11155.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11155.5. (a) In addition to the personal property permitted by other provisions of this part, a child declared a ward or dependent child of the juvenile court, who is 16 years of age or older, or, on and after January 1, ~~2012~~ 2012, a nonminor dependent, as defined in subdivision (v) of Section 11400, who is participating in a transitional independent living case plan pursuant to the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351), may retain resources with a combined value of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), consistent with Section 472(a) of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 672(a)) as contained in the federal Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-169) and the child's transitional independent living plan. Any cash savings shall be the child's own money and shall be deposited by the child or on behalf of the child in any bank or savings and loan institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. The cash savings shall be for the child's use for purposes directly related to the child's or nonminor dependents' transitional independent living case plan goals.

(b) The withdrawal of the savings by a child shall require the written approval of the child's probation officer or social worker and shall be directly related to the goal of emancipation. This written approval is not required for withdrawals by a nonminor dependent.